

SERVICE

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Nebraska


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ORGANIZATION is the keynote of modern progress. The individual was the first business unit, but with the growth of trade he was superseded by the partnership which in turn gave way to the corporation, and this at last to the holding company whose directors, through trust agreements, dominate whole series of corporations. Centralization of power has kept pace with organization, and through a strange anomaly the individual who was brushed aside by the partnership and the corporation has come at last to a position of transcendent importance through his control of the new machinery of business. Nor has business alone succumbed to organization; there is scarcely an activity in which the advantages of organization have been overlooked. The wonderful development of trade unions, co-operative buying and selling societies, and the thousand and one groups designed to reap the benefits of concerted action, bear ample testimony to the value of organization. Without it the individual is helpless—with it he is well nigh invincible.

Your presence here today proves your faith in organization for in these exercises of your Institute you reap the benefit of co-operation. Your organization is the more commendable because it makes for the uplift of the race through genuine, far-reaching, permanent service, a service dignified almost beyond the power of exaggeration because of the matter with which it deals—human character. It is a truism that a man is what his character makes him; in fact, we might almost say the character is the man.

All honest effort is worthy, but the nobler the purpose the

*Dean, Creighton College of Law and Professor of Conflicts and Contracts. Address delivered at Douglas County Teachers' Institute on Friday, August 30, 1912.

better the task. He who moulds clay is not without honor, but the moulder of character shapes the nation's destiny. True, the process may not seem to bring tangible results any more than the sun's warmth produces measurable growth in the budding rose, but the growth is there and in the fullness of time, under proper influences, both character and rose will blossom, spreading their rich perfume with lavish extravagance. No particular factor in the formation of character may be able to establish its predominance, any more than a particular sunbeam could lay claim to credit for developing the rosebud, but every act, every situation, like every ray of light, exerts some influence and is entitled to its share of recognition. Someone has aptly said, "Sow an act and you reap a habit, sow a habit and you reap a character, sow a character and you reap a destiny."

Next to the home the school exerts more influence upon the child than any other agency, and renders a corresponding degree of service. It is your task to illumine the young mind and to train the young will so it may bring its possessor the largest share of happiness through the greatest contribution to the common good. For, after all, it is service to our fellows that spells happiness. As Lowell has so beautifully said:

"Not what we give, but what we share,
For the gift without the giver is bare;
Who gives himself with his alms feeds three—
Himself, his hungering neighbor, and me."

We may well boast of our modern architectural triumphs, our sky-scrapers, our bridges, our canal, but these are merely for the day—tomorrow they are pushed aside in the march of progress by some new achievement in comparison with which they dwindle into insignificance. But man, intelligent, thinking, compelling man, endures. The mind, rich with the spoils of time, presses ever on toward new triumphs, baffled perhaps for the moment, but ever mounting higher in its achievements until we seem almost to see the workings of Omnipotence from which it derived its power. To be entrusted with training and developing such a faculty is glory enough indeed, but to succeed in stimulating this wondrous power into ambition for further and still further triumphs, for which, through your co-operation,

proper preparation has been made, is to tremble, a-thrill with an ecstasy born of conscious participation in a task meant for the elect. What boots it that for this blessed privilege we must endure the winter's cold and summer's heat, the exhaustion of long-sustained mental effort, the nerve-racking strain of daily struggle with adverse conditions? What though the task mean sacrifice, and toil and privation when with less ambition we might languidly loiter where pleasure calls? Better fifty years of Europe than a cycle of Cathay, better a short life of service than a thousand years of sloth.

No one familiar with the class-room would belittle its exactions, but in our zeal we are apt to forget that genuine service demands such care of oneself as to preserve his efficiency. Self-immolation on the altar of scholastic duty may perhaps occasionally be demanded, but the call is rare. He who would serve must be fit, and this presupposes not only proper preparation, but preservation of one's powers. If at eventide you struggle home, worn out with the worries of the day, your progress impeded and your peace of mind threatened by a bundle of papers to be read and corrected, you may, at least occasionally, follow the advice of the professor who suggested that these tormenters be cast into the fire where they would be, if not thoughts that breathe, at least words that burn. Relaxation and rest are quite as important as work—without the rests in music there would be no harmony, without recreation life's harmony is doomed. Constant grinding will wear a rut so deep you cannot see out, and, as someone has aptly said, the only difference between a rut and a grave is in length and breadth.

The story of service is always fascinating and particularly so when illumined by the light of a love which seeks solace in perpetuating the name and achievements of a spouse snatched away from life in the full flush of success. You may therefore be interested in learning something about Mrs. Mary Lucretia Creighton and the university which she provided for in her will by way of testifying to her great love for her deceased husband, Edward Creighton.

This illustrious man, the first of the name to acquire fame and fortune, was the fifth child of his parents, there being nine

children in all. He was born near the town of Barnesville, in Belmont County, Ohio, on August 31, 1820. Ohio was then a frontier state; there were few schools, and even such as existed provided short terms and meager facilities. The Creighton family moved to Licking County, Ohio, in 1830, where Edward secured such education as was to be had in the district school; he added further to his stock of knowledge by diligent study of such books as he could get after completing the local course. As a boy he helped his father on the farm and worked occasionally on the pike roads, having as his companion the afterwards celebrated General Philip Sheridan.

On his eighteenth birthday Edward was given a team of horses and wagon, with which he set out to make his own way in the world, engaging first in the business of wagoner between Cincinnati, Ohio, and Wheeling, West Virginia. Subsequently he undertook various public works, but his greatest task was the building, with his brother, John, of the telegraph line between Omaha and the Pacific coast, thus establishing communication between east and west. These men endured all the trials and hardships of frontier life and many of their experiences read as if taken from the novelist's page.

At length, when he had amassed a considerable fortune, Edward Creighton engaged in the banking business in Omaha, and while in his office he was suddenly stricken with paralysis, from which he died on November 5, 1874. Dying thus unexpectedly, he left no will and his immense fortune passed to his widow, who was under no legal obligation to apply it in any particular manner. However, her husband had often expressed a desire to found a free college for boys which was to be without restriction as to creed, race or condition. Accordingly she made provision in her will, dated September 23, 1875, for a legacy of \$100,000 which was to be used for this purpose. The institution, she said, "is designed by me as a memorial of my late husband. I have selected this mode of testifying to his virtue and my affection to his memory because such work was one which he, in his lifetime, proposed to himself." Mrs. Creighton died on January 23, 1876, mourned by thousands who had learned to love her as a ministering angel of charity. It was her wont to go among the

poor distributing money, clothes and food, and many a child would have gone supperless to bed were it not for her unostentatious help. She was the solace of the widow and the orphan in distress, and when she resigned her peaceful spirit into the hands of her Maker, Omaha mourned as for its best beloved.

On September 2, 1878, the new college was opened with one hundred and twenty-six students in attendance, the highest class being the "Sixth Reader Class." There were no graduates until 1891, when five men received the A. B. degree. From these humble beginnings the University has gradually grown until it now has a complete four-year High School course, which is free, a four-year College course, a Teachers' course and a Post-graduate course also free, thanks to the munificence of the Creighton family. There is also a College of Medicine, a College of Law, a College of Dentistry and a College of Pharmacy in which the students pay only one-half of the expense involved in their education. Facilities are also offered for thorough astronomical instruction, the University observatory having an international reputation through the work of its present director, Professor Rigge, who enjoys the distinction of being a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society of England, as well as a regular contributor to technical magazines on both sides of the Atlantic. It is interesting to note, in passing, that Professor Rigge came to Omaha, thirty-four years ago, to be a member of the first faculty in the College of Arts and Sciences.

It is scarcely necessary to say that the university's development would never have occurred without the co-operation of a man whom Omaha loved, the late Count John A. Creighton, who gave to the institution many times as much as the original foundation and left it, at his death on February 7, 1907, with an endowment of \$3,000,000. To him the university owes most of its buildings and equipment, and it is safe to say that few institutions are better prepared for their work.

For instance, the medical plant is valued at a quarter million dollars, its staff is recruited from American and European schools, and the graduates are eligible for appointment to twenty internships from Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, to Tacoma, Washington. The college is the largest in Nebraska, and maintains a

free dispensary clinic in which during the last year there were administered 13,000 free treatments to the deserving poor. A new laboratory building, for the exclusive use of the medical students, was recently built and equipped at an expense of \$82,000.

The clinical facilities of St. Joseph's Hospital, the largest in the west, are reserved for the Creighton medical students. A \$30,000 surgical amphitheater for their use was recently erected, and few hospitals in the country are better equipped than St. Joseph's. This institution was founded by Mrs. Sarah Emily Creighton, wife of Count John A. Creighton, and sister of Mrs. Edward Creighton; the original gift was \$50,000, but this was increased several fold by the Count, who made of the institution a memorial to his wife. It had 3,617 patients last year, of whom 593 were free. No denominational test is prescribed and last year twenty-four different religions were represented among the patients. This freedom from denominational discrimination was characteristic of the Creightons and still prevails. Religion is no bar to matriculation in any of the courses; there are no chapel exercises except in the College of Arts, and even here attendance is not compulsory. In the professional colleges more than half the students and more than three-fourths of the professors differ from the founders in religion. The institution is essentially educational and offers equal opportunities to all properly qualified applicants.

The College of Law is the only department of the University which offers instruction at night as well as in the day. During the last five years its enrollment has more than trebled though the entrance requirements have been advanced and the tuition increased. It has a splendid library worth \$20,000 and is unique for its highly developed system of moot courts in which the students are trained to apply their knowledge. The school maintains a Model House, fashioned after the National House of Representatives, in which public speaking, parliamentary practice and legislation are taught. The Creighton diploma admits to practice and the institution enjoys the distinction of membership in the Association of American Law Schools, into which only thirty-six of the one hundred and sixteen schools of the

country have found admission. Carrying out the idea of service, the night sessions of the course have been so arranged that business men may attend and thus supplement their work by such law courses as bear on their particular lines. Moreover, deserving, serious-minded students who are financially handicapped may obtain suitable employment during the day and by attending the night sessions fit themselves for the bar, or, if they prefer, for business. The night school, however, is not designed to afford an easy means of admission to the bar. The same requirements apply to both the schools save that the night men must take four years' instruction instead of three, as in the day school, if they would complete the course.

The College of Dentistry, the largest in Nebraska, is one of the best equipped in the country, its infirmary alone having \$10,000 worth of operating chairs for student use. The same idea of service prevails here, and every year thousands of deserving patients are treated, no charge being made in any case except for material. Realizing the importance of properly caring for children's teeth, the college has gladly donated the services of its operators to those institutions which house dependent children.

The College of Pharmacy, also the largest in the state, has its own specially constructed building, in which there are splendidly equipped laboratories, lecture halls and reading rooms. The students co-operate with the doctors in the medical college and fill the prescriptions for the Free Dispensary Clinic. Though all of the professional colleges are open to women, more enroll in Pharmacy than in all the others combined.

In the College of Arts and Sciences the usual degrees A. B., B. S., B. Litt., and A. M. are conferred, and extensive opportunities are offered in pedagogical courses at the conclusion of which state teachers' certificates are conferred through courtesy of the State Department of Public Instruction.

At the present time a complete Summer School is being organized to give instruction in all subjects required for state teachers' certificates by the states in this vicinity, as well as advanced courses in all of the colleges. University credit will be given to properly qualified students and every effort will be ex-

pended to conduct the work upon the same high plane which prevails now. All of the classes will be open to both men and women, and the regular staff will be supplemented by professors brought from other institutions of learning.

The University publishes, five times a year, a Bulletin containing detailed information about its course, a monthly magazine, The Creighton Chronicle, during the school year, and a semi-monthly newspaper, The Creighton Courier, during the entire year.

The last five years have been notable for the internal organization of the University and for the rapid growth in the student body. The enrollment, during that period, has increased from 686 to 967, or forty-one per cent. At the present rate the next decade will bring an enrollment of 2,000, without counting on the opening of new colleges.

The financial importance of the institution to the city is noteworthy. A careful estimate of the student expenditures shows that they amount to a half million dollars a year, some of the larger items being: Shoes, \$10,000; suits and overcoats, \$50,000; confections and tobacco, \$10,000; laundry, \$15,000; hats, caps and haberdashery, \$10,000; books, stationery, instruments and apparatus, \$40,000; drugs, jewelry, sporting goods, engraving, printing, catering, taxi cabs, etc., \$25,000; board and lodging, \$200,000; amusements and incidentals, \$25,000; railroad fare, \$25,000. A manufacturing establishment employing a thousand men would be justly prized as a very valuable asset of a city—an educational institution with a thousand students is not to be ignored. Omaha ranks much higher in bank clearings than in population—Creighton's contribution to the financial welfare of the city through its student and official expenditures helps to swell these clearings and give Omaha its enviable position.

The Creighton alumni now number more than two thousand and they are scattered all over the known world. For instance, some of them are in China, some in the Philippines, some in Spain, some in the Hawaiian Islands, some in Mexico, some in Alaska, and there is probably not a state in the union without its Creighton graduates. Naturally the larger percentage is to be found within a radius of two or three hundred miles of Omaha

and it goes without saying that the city profits from the custom which naturally flows to its merchants from the graduates who during their college days here learned to know and take an interest in the place. Creighton men have earned their share of prominence and success. In political, professional and commercial life they have demonstrated their ability to win and keep responsible positions. Comparisons are apt to be odious, but it may be interesting to know that a Creighton man was recently made bishop of Cheyenne, another was formerly attorney general of Nebraska, another is manager of the traffic bureau of the Omaha Commercial club, another is chief surgeon of one of the largest hospitals in the west and is charged with the care of more than 10,000 miners, another is one of the commissioners of Omaha, another is sub-master of New England's largest grammar school, the Washington, located in Boston, another has achieved marked success at the New York bar, another, after seventeen years' residence in Mexico, has just organized a very large oil corporation there with native capital, another was recently honored by election to office in an important professional society in Hawaii, a considerable number of them have held political office, many are engaged in responsible banking and mercantile positions, and not a few have entered the government service in places of trust. As poets, journalists, teachers they have scored distinct triumphs and in the field of religious endeavor their efforts have not been unavailing.

Much of this success is primarily due to the thoroughness which has characterized the institution's training. The elective system which threatened to engulf American collegiate instruction for a time never found much favor here and now that the pendulum has commenced to swing back again it is a source of no little pleasure to reflect that Creighton's adherence to a prescribed course for undergraduate and professional students alike prevented those abuses which have compelled a modification and in some cases the abolition of the elective system. Moreover, the University's instruction has from the beginning been eminently practical. Professors with fine spun theories have not been popular, and while reasonable initiative has been encouraged, emphasis has been placed upon the tried and tested re-

sults of experience. In the professional schools particularly every effort has been exerted to insure a happy combination of the theoretical and practical, and observers have often remarked upon the ability of Creighton men to do things—the modern day test of efficiency. Another reason for this trait is that the smaller classes maintained by the University have ensured the maximum of personal contact between student and teacher—a factor of the utmost moment in education. The average mind quickened by study and reflection will seek light, will insist on questioning, and without this process education is scarcely possible. At Creighton, in all of the classes, the students are encouraged to bring their difficulties to the professors for solution and thus both teaching staff and student body is maintained at its maximum efficiency.

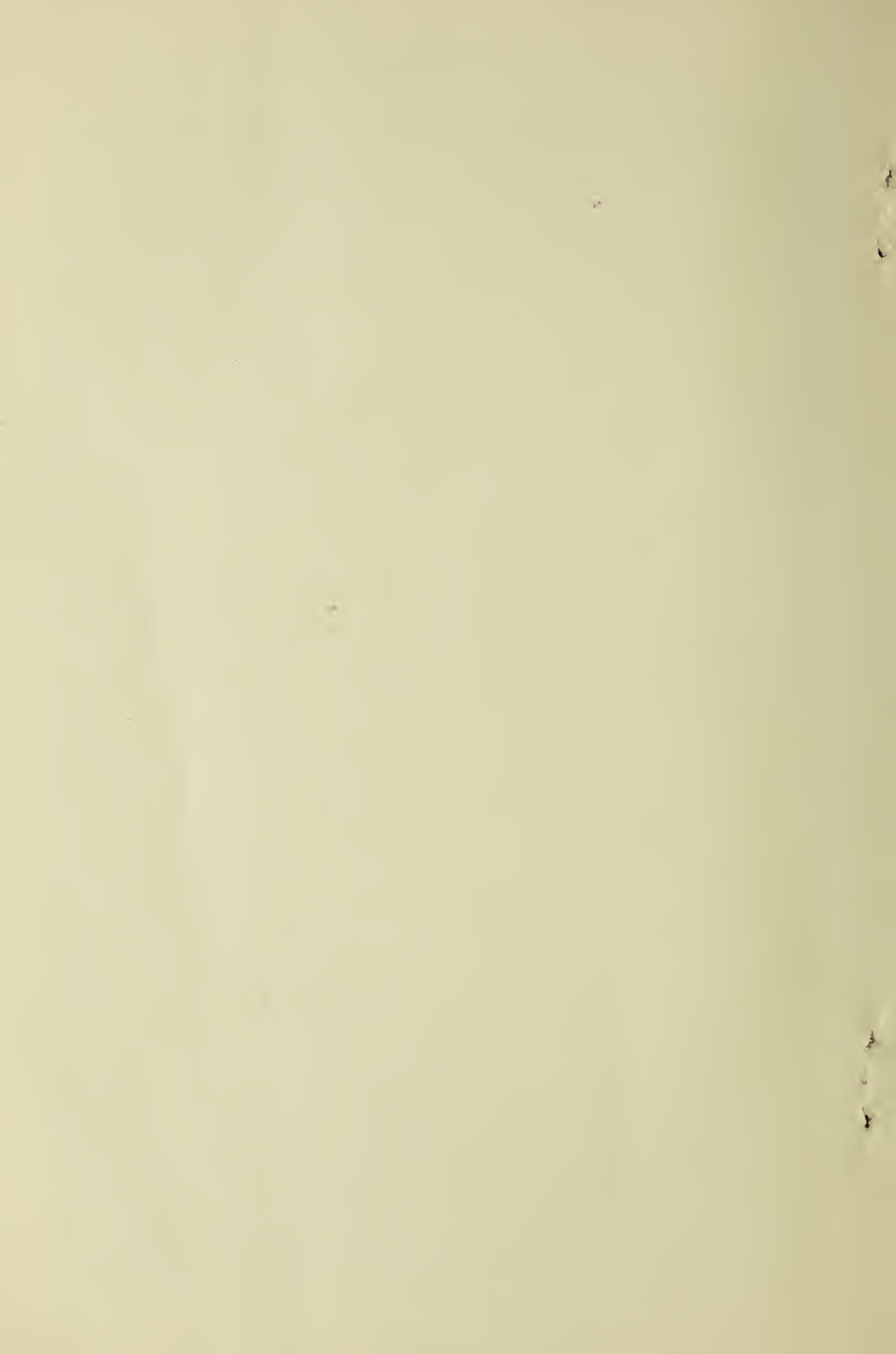
Creighton has always stood for progress and has therefore preferred to maintain its colleges at the highest point rather than scatter its energies and income over too wide a field. There are a number of courses in which it does not offer instruction for the reason that this extension of facilities has not yet seemed wise. Its motto has been: *Non multa sed multum*—not many, but much. Adhering to this policy it has built up its schools until they stand in the forefront, thoroughly competent for the work they have undertaken.

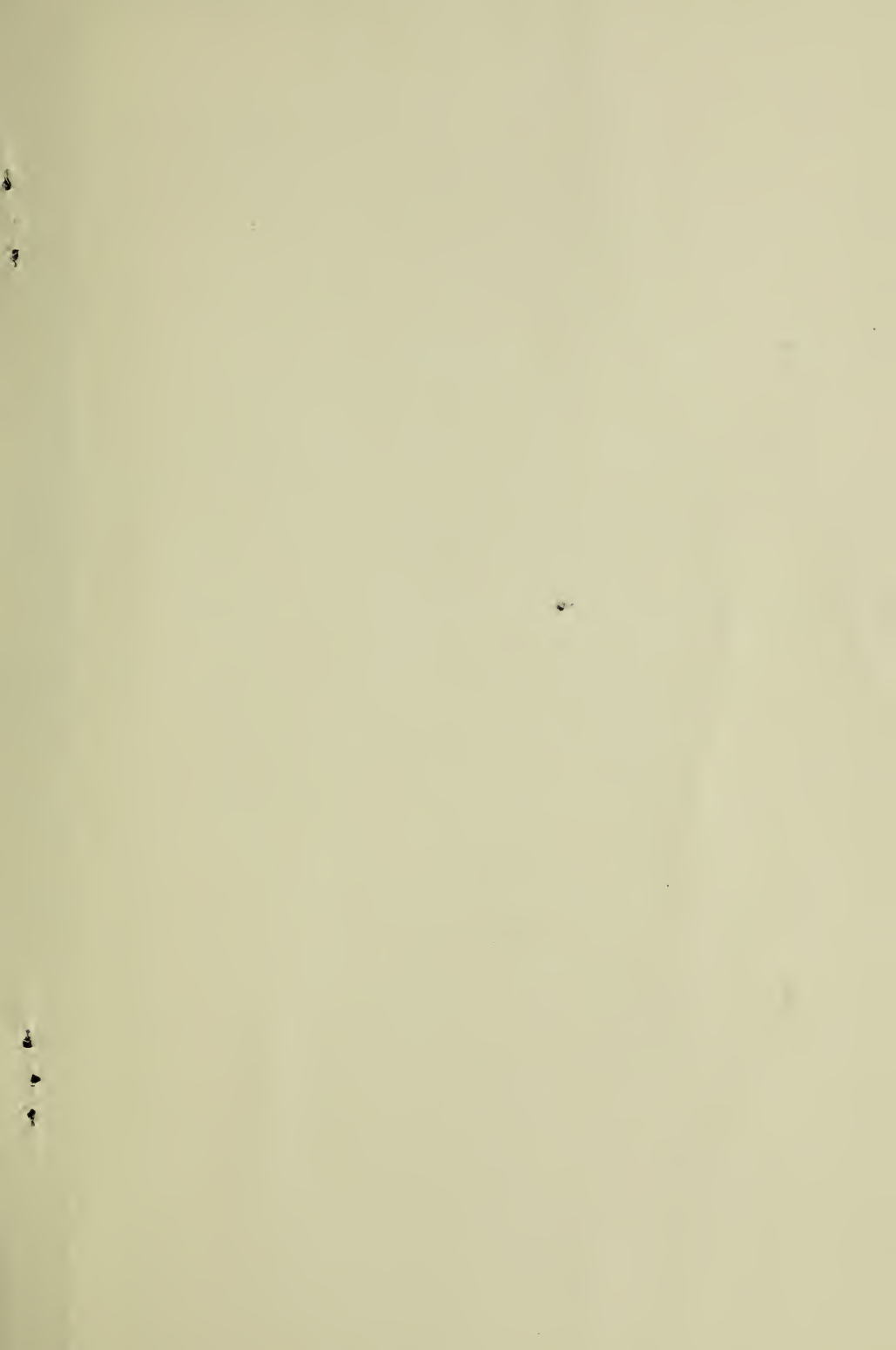
Realizing that many of the best students are handicapped for lack of sufficient financial resources, the University has always taken a keen interest in this class and has tried, through its officers, to assist deserving applicants. Many a worthy young man has thus been helped to a course which without such aid would have been impossible, and society has been benefited by his coming. In fact, helpfulness has been the prevailing note of the institution and its work has made for service. Public in its benefits, private in its burden, it has rendered Herculean service to the cause of good government and right living. Founded as a testimonial of Mrs. Creighton's affection for her deceased husband, the University has ever kept warmly glowing the lamp of noble ideals by which this generous benefactress was guided. Developed and permanently endowed by Count John A. Creighton, the institution has ever tried to measure up to his high

standard of good citizenship, and to follow the illustrious example which he set as trustee of a fortune which grew to considerable proportions under his skillful management.

Columbia may boast of a twenty-seven million dollar endowment, Harvard of twenty-five, Leland Stanford of twenty-four, and Chicago University of fifteen millions, but Creighton is unique in its offer of free tuition in its High School and College courses. In an age which puts such store by the dollar this offer is the more noteworthy and suggests that at least one wealthy family was actuated by motives which if more widespread would help to break down the barrier between capital and labor. Money thus used makes for service of fellowman, for amelioration of unhappy conditions, for that best of all help which helps the deserving to help himself.

We honor John Harvard, the obscure New England clergyman, who, on his death in 1638, gave to the new college at Cambridge his library of two hundred and sixty volumes and £400 in money—in recognition of his munificence the name of the institution was changed to Harvard College. But he was a man of the cloth who might be expected to be the patron of education. The Creightons were busy business men who never enjoyed the advantages of the schools and who moreover were so deeply immersed in gigantic commercial undertakings that they might be forgiven if they overlooked the educational needs of the times. Nor was theirs the so-called philanthropy which sometimes seeks a sort of earthly immortality by rearing huge piles of stone and mortar upon which the builders may the more securely engrave their names. No, the Creighton giving came from the heart with no nice discrimination between various means of perpetuating their memory; their gifts meant service, the discharge of a sacred trust, and if after two hundred and seventy-four years John Harvard's name is secure because of the institution which in its hour of need he befriended, may we not reasonably predict that so long as Omaha endures and the university continues its mission of beneficence, the name of Creighton will be honored among men as a beacon light in whose steady flame the coming generations may ever read the transcendent lesson of service.







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